

KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

CONTACT: Barbara Miner, Clerk 206-296-2910
ISSUED BY: Barbara Miner, Director and Superior Court Clerk
ISSUE DATE: December 20, 2011
ISSUE NO: 11-009



King County

CLERK'S ALERT

Changes to the Civil Case Schedule: Reducing Time from Filing to Trial Date

King County Superior Court is implementing a plan to reduce the time from filing to trial on the case schedule issued in most civil cases.

The Court's current case schedule for the majority of the civil cases is 534 days or approximately 17.5 months from filing to trial date. The Court has determined that this schedule is unnecessarily long for most civil cases. The current schedule also prevents the Court from meeting state-imposed civil disposition standards. Consequently, the judges of King County Superior Court have voted to gradually shorten the civil case schedule from 17.5 months to 12 months. This change will be accomplished over a four-year period by shortening the civil case schedule by 8 weeks in the first year, 6 weeks in the second year, 8 weeks in the third year with one week carrying over into the fourth year. Beginning January 9, 2012, the Clerk will shorten the case schedule by one week approximately every five weeks, reducing the length of the case schedule from that point forward. This procedure will result in double set trials every five weeks. The Court expects that recent fall-off in the number of civil trials will enable the Court to maintain trial date certainty.

During the second year, the Court expects to suspend this process for several months in order to evaluate the impact of the case schedule changes on attorneys and the Court. If the evaluation is satisfactory, the process of shortening the case schedule will resume. The Court will begin implementation of this change January 9, 2012. Case Schedules issued the week of January 9, 2012 will have the same trial date as the previous week's schedule. The implementation schedule is available on the Clerk's website at <http://kingcounty.gov/courts/Clerk/CaseScheduleMod.aspx>.

Sign up to receive Clerk's Office Alerts automatically by e-mail. To receive future alerts automatically compose an e-mail message and send e-mail as follows:

To subscribe, click on the link below and send the e-mail.

To: listserv@lists.kingcounty.gov

Type in the body of the e-mail: subscribe clerk's-alert-mailing-list

If added to the mailing list successfully you will receive a confirmation notice.